

# Know the facts: Cotton's water use

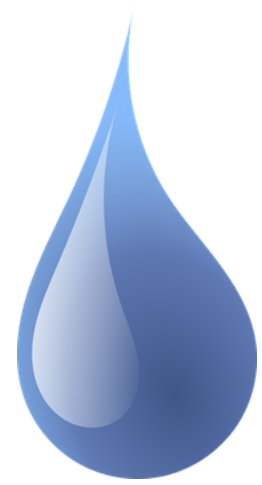


## 1.) COTTON CROP WATER REQUIREMENTS

- Cotton's average irrigation requirement is **6.8 megalitres** per hectare.
- This compares to **rice** (12.1 ML/ha), **fruit and nut trees, plantation or berry fruits** (6.5 ML/ha), and **sugar cane** (5.6 ML/ha).
- Irrigation water for agriculture is used on the highest value crops. **Farmers choose to "spend" their water entitlements** on the crops that deliver the best return per unit of water; in many areas that crop is cotton.

## 2.) WATER USE EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS

- **40% less water** is now needed to grow one tonne of cotton lint in Australia, compared to 2003.



## 3.) COTTON'S TOTAL WATER USE



- In 2015-16, cotton accounted for **16% of water use** on Australian farms.
- In 2015-16, the **largest area of irrigated land** in Australia was pastures and cereal crops for grazing, which accounted for 576,000 hectares of area watered, or 26.8% of the total area irrigated (2,148,000 hectares).

COMPILED BY COTTON AUSTRALIA

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